

Charles IV. did not preserve his crown; he was easily intimidated, and advantage was taken of a moment of alarm to demand that abdication which he had not spirit to refuse. He surrendered up his rights to his son, and thus was overthrown the insolent power of the Prince of the Peace; the favorite was made prisoner,, and the Spaniards, who, like all ignorant people, are easily excited, manifested their joy on the occasion with barbarous enthusiasm. Meanwhile the unfortunate King, who had escaped from imaginary rather than real dangers, and who was at first content with having exchanged the right of reigning for the right of living, no sooner found himself in safety than he changed his mind. He wrote to the Emperor protesting against his abdication, and appealed to him as the arbiter of his future fate.

During these internal dissensions the French army was continuing its inarch towards the Pyrenees. Those barriers were speedily crossed, and Murat entered Madrid in the beginning of April, 1808. Before I received any despatch from our Government I learned that Murat's presence in Madrid, far from producing a good effect, had only increased the disorder. I obtained this information from a merchant of Liibeck who came to Hamburg on purpose to show me a letter he had received from his correspondent in Madrid. In this letter Spain was said to be a prey which Murat wished to appropriate to himself; and all that afterwards came to my knowledge served only to prove the accuracy of the writer's information. It was perfectly true that Murat wished to conquer Spain for himself, and it is not astonishing that the inhabitants of Madrid should have understood his designs, for he carried his indiscretion so far as openly to express his wish to become King of Spain. The Emperor was informed

removal of the royal family to Seville. On quitting this Council the Prince of the Asturias said to the guards, as he passed through the hall in which they were stationed, "The Prince of the Peace is a traitor: he wishes to send away my father. Prevent his departure."

This observation of the Prince of the Asturias was rapidly reported through the town. The populace repaired to the palace of the Prince of the Peace, ransacked it, and, after vigilant search, found the Prince concealed in a garret. He would undoubtedly have fallen a victim to the fury of the mob had not some of his attendants saved him by carrying him off to prison, pretending that they did so by order of the Prince of the Asturias (*Memoirs of Che Due de Rovigo*, tome iii. p. 246).